Introduction

Hope Highlands is a public elementary school that is in a quiet area in Cranston, Rhode Island. Hope Highlands has a mission statement and a vision statement. These statements are meant to let people outside and inside the Cranston communities feel comfortable with Hope Highlanders. Hope Highlands is very welcoming and open to students of all different cultures and backgrounds. The staff at Hope highlands prides themselves on giving an excellent education. In addition, they want their students to excel exponentially through out their academic career. The reason for the context statement is to give society a better understanding of the Cranston community, the Cranston district, and to gain an appreciation of the school, hope highlands. The Hope Highlands mission statement states, “It is the mission of Hope Highlands Elementary to educate each child by providing learning experiences that address each student’s immediate needs as well as prepare them for life-long learning and their roles as responsible citizens. Hope Highlands School is a safe, supportive, stimulating child-centered learning environment built upon the unique talents and abilities of each individual.  Our school provides an enriched educational experience where school, home and community come together to create life-long learners, able to excel in a world of constantly changing technology, culture and social values.”

Community Background

Hope highlands has a very good community background, the school is in quite area in the western part of Cranston. Hope Highlands is one of the seventeen total elementary schools in the Cranston district. Out the seventeen schools in Cranston, Hope highlands are one of the best-ranked schools for education. The median house holds income for Cranston is $58,422; the average income fore Rhode Island is $55,975. So generally the community Cranston is household income is above average. The median family average income is $73,804 and the Rhode Island average family income is $72,724. There are 6.5% families below the poverty level and the state average is 9%. Cranston is predominantly Caucasian community with 84% being white, which are roughly 67,157 people. There are 6% African American, and 11% Latino or Hispanic. Cranston is an area where there are a lot of women. There are roughly 51% Females which is 40,757 females.

District Summary

In the state of Rhode Island it is mandatory for students from grades three through eight, and then again in the eleventh grade to take the New England Common Assignment Program (NECAP). The NECAP score for Cranston district is generally higher than the state standard. The only category the Cranston district doesn’t meet the state standard is in fourth grade math. The state standard is 65% and the Cranston district has a 63% passing rate. Compared to Barrington’s district Cranston falls behind dramatically. Statistics show that Barrington district NECAP scores approximately 15%-20% higher than the students in the Cranston district. The Cranston district NECAP scores on the other hand are consistently higher compared to the central falls district scores, which is the lowest scoring district. Even though the Cranston district NECAP scores aren’t the best to compare to Barrington’s district, Cranston also isn’t the worst. Receiving an education from Cranston is still considered a good education and it doesn’t fall far behind the Barrington district, which is considered to receive the best NECAP scores. Third grade NCAP categories are math and reading. The state percentage is 60 for math and 70% for reading. The third grade Cranston district for math is 59% and the reading is 74%. The Cranston district is a typical for the third grade NECAP scores. The fourth grade NECAP test is made up of math, reading, and science. The state average for forth grade math is 65%, 69% in the reading category, and 45% in the science category. Students in the Cranston district, are performing on an above average scale when it comes to NECAP scores.

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| **NECAP Assessments** | **STATE** | **CRANSTON DISTRICT** | **BARINGTON DISTRCIT** | **CENTRAL FALLS DISTRICT** |
| 3RD GRADE MATH | 60% | 59% | 78% | 35% |
| 3rd GRADE READING | 70% | 74% | 86% | 46% |
| 4TH GRADE MATH | 65% | 63% | 85% | 35% |
| 4TH GRADE READING | 69% | 73% | 91% | 42% |
| 4TH GRADE SCIENCE | 45% | 52% | 77% | 10% |
| 5TH GRADE READING | 72% | 79% | 93% | 38% |
| 5TH GRADE WRITING | 59% | 68% | 84% | 26% |
| 6TH GRADE MATH | 62% | 67% | 86% | 32% |
| 6TH GRADE READING | 73% | 82% | 92% | 44% |

There is a teaching definition category, which involves student to teacher-student ratio. The Cranston district student teacher ratio has the same ratio as the state, which is 1:10. The Cranston district has a very good ratio, which makes parents and student feel a lot better. The 1:10 ratio means that for every one teacher there are only ten students. The ratio allows students to have a better communication and get a better understanding of class material. Students have the access to ask more questions when they don’t understand the material because the class is smaller. Teachers with big classes can’t take time to stop and accommodate for one student because there are more students that need to be taught. The Cranston district has a better teacher to student ratio than Barrington. The Barrington student ratio is 1:12. Comparing the Cranston district to central fall, which is the worst district. The teacher to student ratio relatively the same, both the Cranston and Central Falls districts have 1:10 teacher student ratio. This is again is a good ratio because students can get more attention from the teacher because there are fewer students.

School Analysis

Hope Highlands takes pride on educating their students. They are one of the seventeen schools in Cranston and they have one of the highest NECAP scores. Hope highlands makes it a priority to make sure the students comprehend what they are learning. The students that attend hope highlands shows comprehension in the material they learn by the scores they produce on the NECAP assessments. I will be comparing the NECAP score from Hope highlands with Sawams and Humpden Meadows elementary schools, which are located in Barington. I will also show the comparison between Veterans Memorial and Calcutt elementary schools, which are located in Central Falls. The reason for the two separate schools in Barrington and Central Falls is because both cities don’t have an elementary school that has k-6th grade. Hope highlands students in third grade math score about average with the state, which is 60%, Sawams and Humpden Meadows elementary schools score 74% and Veterans Memorial and Calcutt elementary schools which is below state average with 33% on the NECAP. The rest of the percentages for Hope highlands are roughly 5-15% higher than the state scores. Sawams and Humpden Meadows elementary schools score average are generally higher than Hope highlands by 10%. On the other hand Veterans Memorial and Calcutt elementary schools, which are in Central Falls score about 5-12%, lower than the sate NECAP scores.

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| **NECAP ASSESSMENTS** | **STATE** | **HOPE HIGHLANDS** | **SAWAMS AND HAMPTON MEADOWS** | **VETERANS MEMORIAL AND CALCUTT** |
| 3RD GRADE MATH | 60% | 60% | 74% | 33% |
| 3RD GRADE READING | 70% | 78% | 86% | 37% |
| 4TH GRADE MATH | 65% | 79% | 85% | 37% |
| 4TH GRADE READING | 69% | 77% | 91% | 40% |
| 4TH GRADE SCIENCE | 45% | 72% | 78% | 16% |
| 5TH GRADE MATH | 62% | 71% | 87% | 29% |
| 5TH GRADE READING | 72% | 78% | 93% | 39% |
| 5TH GRADE WRITING | 59% | 63% | 84% | 26% |
| 6TH GRADE MATH | 62% | 79% | N/A | 32% |
| 6TH GRADE READING | 73% | 87% | N/A | 44% |

Conclusion

All in all Hope Highlands is an excellent school. It is a school where students can get an above average education, with a lot of teacher guidance. The Hope Highlands teachers take pride in their jobs and want the best for their students. Hope Highlands elementary school welcomes’ any child with open arms from ages 5 years old till about 11 years of age (k-6th grade). The Cranston community is mostly composed of wealth Caucasian people and it is a community with 50% females. The Cranston district performs above average on their NECAP scores, and the district has a very good teacher student ratio that is 1:10. Finally Hope Highlands’ scores on the NECAP show how well the students understand and comprehend what they are being taught. Hope Highlands is located in safe area were parents feel more then conferrable sending their children there. Parents acknowledge that Hope Highlands is a place where their children will get a great education with teachers who care and like to educate to better the future.